

**REMARKS**

An Examiner's Interview Summary Record (PTO-413) is attached with the PTO Communication dated September 16, 2008.

During the interview, the following was discussed:

1. Brief description of exhibits or demonstration: None
2. Identification of claims discussed: Claims 1, 3-6, and 8
3. Identification of art discussed: Takenaka. (JP 10058798)
4. Identification of principal proposed amendments: None
5. Brief Identification of principal arguments: Applicant submitted:

*In claim 1:* The Examiner has unreasonably interpreted the claim language "synchronized" over broadly.

*In claim 3:* The Examiner has unreasonably asserted an overly broad construction of the "print data or bit image data".

*In claim 4:* Takenaka does not disclose or suggest, "the control means obtains a difference time between the transfer time and the printing preparation time".

*In claim 10:* The Examiner has failed to cite a reference to disclose that the transfer speed as claimed.

6. Indication of other pertinent matters discussed: None.
7. Results of Interview: The Examiner suggested consideration of amending "printing preparation start timing" of claim 1 to, "printing start timing". No agreement was reached.

It is respectfully submitted that the instant STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§1.2 and 1.133 and MPEP §713.04.

**Status of the Application**

Claims 1-12 are currently pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicants are amending claim 1 and canceling claims 7-12.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

*Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Takenaka (JP 10058798). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.*

**Claim 1**

Amended independent claim 1 recites, in part:

the at least two image outputting apparatuses transfer identifying information regarding themselves when transferring the image data;  
the printing preparation time for the each image data outputting apparatus is recorded in advance in the control means; and  
the control means obtains the printing preparation time which corresponds to the identifying information transferred from the at least two image outputting apparatus, and determines the printing preparation start timing based on the printing preparation time and the transfer time.

In view of the Amendment of claim 1, the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 is now moot, and thus, Takenaka fails to teach or suggest the newly amended claim features of claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of independent claim 1; and claims 2-8, and 10 at least by virtue of their dependencies on claim 1.

**Claim 3**

A feature of claim 3 recites in part, "transfer time information indicating the transfer time of the image data of the image data outputting apparatus is input and stored in the control means *in advance*".

Takenaka teaches in paragraph [0018], "...attribute information describing the type, number, size, and the like of an object attached to a data file described in a page description

language...". Takenaka, however, fails to teach that the transfer time information is stored in the control means *in advance*. Contrary to the claimed invention, Takenaka teaches in paragraphs [0053]-[0055] that the transfer time information is determined after the data is transferred. Thus, Takenaka fails to teach or suggest all the features of amended claim 3.

#### **Claim 4**

Claim 4 recites in part, "the control means obtains a difference time between the transfer time and the printing preparation time". The Examiner maintains his position in the office action dated February 7, 2008 and asserts in the Response to Arguments:

*see Takenaka, i.e. Para. [0055] discloses "the determination means 25 determines the activation timing based on a remaining time obtained from the newly calculated transfer time ... the steps Sc4 to Sc6 are repeated until the remaining time falls within the start-up time of the printing section (obviously by comparing a difference, if no difference existed in comparing, then the time falls within the section)..." and when the transfer time is longer than the printing preparation time (see Takenaka, i.e. Para. [0055] discloses "if the raster data size is large and the remaining time required for receiving all of the raster data from the present time is longer than the start-up time, which is the time period from the time ..."), the printing preparation of the recording sheet is started after a period of time equivalent to the difference time has passed from a transfer start time of the image data (see Takenaka, i.e. Para. [0055]-[0056], discloses "... when the remaining time falls within the start-up time of the printing section, the determination section 25 instructs the activation timing to the output control means..").*

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position.

The determination means in Takenaka operates by continually comparing the remaining time for receiving all of the raster data from the present time, to the start-up time of the printing section. (See paragraph [0055]). To the extent that Takenaka makes the continual comparisons, Takenaka does not determine *when the remaining time would coincide* with the startup time,

but merely runs steps Sc4 to Sc6 until the two times coincide. Thus, Applicants maintain that Takenaka, fails to teach or suggest, “the control means obtains a difference time between the transfer time and the printing preparation time,” as recited in claim 4.

**Claims 5 and 6**

For the same reasons that claim 4 is patentable over the prior art, claims 5 and 6 are also patentable over the prior art as claims 5 and 6 recite similar claim features as claim 4.

**Claims 7-12**

The rejections of the remaining claims are rendered moot by their cancellation.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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